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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/825,985	04/16/2004	Dave Bina	2519	8723

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BRUZGA & ASSOCIATES
11 BROADWAY, SUITE 715
NEW YORK, NY 10004

EXAMINER

WOOD, KEVIN S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2874

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/13/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/825,985

Applicant(s)

BINA ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin S. Wood

Art Unit

2874

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18-30 and 32-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 35 and 36 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-24, 26, 28-30, 32-34, 37-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 25 and 27 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This action is responsive to the Amendment filed on 14 December 2006. Claims 18, 22 and 24 are amended. Claims 1-17 and 31 are cancelled. New claims 37-46 have been added. Claims 18-30 and 32-46 are pending in the application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 18-30 and 32-46 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 33, 34 and 41-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Each of these claims is directly or indirectly dependent upon canceled claim 31. These claims are indefinite because the examiner cannot determine what claim they depend from.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 18-24, 26, 28-30, 32, 37-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,854,897 to Furumai et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,923,805 to Anderson et al.

Referring to claims 18-24, 26, the Furumai et al. reference discloses a hub arrangement for mounting a light pipe to receive light, comprising: a rod hub (8) for mounting at least one light collection rod (16,62) for receiving light from a light source (26); a light pipe hub (12) for mounting at least one light pipe, with a plug and socket arrangement; the plug and socket arrangement including: a socket (12i,14b) in the light pipe hub for receiving a plug (80); and a plug for mounting a light pipe end that is to receive light; a fore end of the plug being receivable within the socket; the plug having a channel for receiving the light pipe through an aft end of the plug. See Fig. 29 of the reference. It is inherent that the light collection rod would be thermally isolating. The

Furumai et al. reference discloses the rod hub includes a plate (14) formed into a cylindrical shape where the plate has a first main surface, a second main surface and an aperture for allowing the rod to pass there through. The Furumai et al. reference discloses the rod hub

The Furumai et al. reference does not appear to specifically disclose that the plug (80) has a latch arrangement to releasably hold the plug within the socket. The Anderson et al. reference discloses an optical connector plug (20) having a latch arrangement (201,202) for releasably securing the plug within a socket (325). The purpose of the latching arrangement is to allow the optical plug to be secured within the socket without the use of adhesives or other permanent securing methods. See Figure 2 through Figure 7 of the Anderson et al. reference, along with their respective portions of the specification.

Referring to claim 29, the Furumai et al. reference discloses all the limitations of the claimed invention, except the reference does not disclose the light pipe hub is made of plastic. Plastic is known within the art to be an inexpensive and durable material for forming components. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the light pipe hub from plastic, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

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Referring to claim 30, the Furumai et al. reference discloses all the limitations of the claimed invention, except the reference does not disclose the plug is made of metal. Metals are known within the art to be strong and highly machinable. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the plug from a metal, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

Referring to claims 28, 32, 37, 39 and 40, the Anderson et al. reference discloses the optical connector plug (20) having a walled cavity within the housing (22) for mounting a strain relief device (60) for protecting the light pipe (11). The strain relief device can be considered to be a metal conduit. The Anderson et al. reference discloses a channel of the plug has a stop (206) to locate the light pipe (11) in a predetermined axial location with the plug (20). The Anderson et al. reference discloses that the plug (20) is made of metal and that the optical fiber cable (11) may be attached to the plug by adhesive. The Anderson et al. reference discloses that the diameter of the interior channel in the plug (20) is larger in the fore end than it is at the aft end. See Figure 2 through Figure 7 of the Anderson et al. reference, along with their respective portions of the specification.

Referring to claims 38, the Furumai et al. reference combined with the teachings of the Anderson et al. reference discloses all the limitations of the claimed invention,

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except the references do not appear to specifically disclose the adhesive is a cyanoacrylate-based glue. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize a cyanoacrylate-based glue, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 35-36 are allowed.
9. Claims 25 and 27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin S. Wood whose telephone number is (571) 272-2364. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (7am - 5:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rodney B. Bovernick can be reached on (571) 272-2344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KSW



KEVIN WOOD
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER